

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910827335903321
Autore	Patton Venetria K. <1968->
Titolo	The grasp that reaches beyond the grave : the ancestral call in black women's texts // Venetria K. Patton
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Albany, : State University of New York Press, c2013
ISBN	1-4384-4738-8
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (216 p.)
Disciplina	810.9/928708996073
Soggetti	American literature - African American authors - History and criticism American literature - African influences African American women - Intellectual life - 20th century African Americans in literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Revising the legacy of kinlessness through elders and ancestors -- Othermothers as elders and culture bearers in Daughters of the dust and The salt eaters -- Ancestral prodding in Praisesong for the widow -- Ancestral disturbances in Stigmata -- Beloved, a ghost story with an Ogbanje twist -- The child figure as a means to ancestral knowledge in Daughters of the dust and A Sunday in June.
Sommario/riassunto	The Grasp That Reaches beyond the Grave investigates the treatment of the ancestor figure in Toni Cade Bambara's The Salt Eaters, Paule Marshall's Praisesong for the Widow, Phyllis Alesia Perry's Stigmata and A Sunday in June, Toni Morrison's Beloved, Tananarive Due's The Between, and Julie Dash's film, Daughters of the Dust in order to understand how they draw on African cosmology and the interrelationship of ancestors, elders, and children to promote healing within the African American community. Venetria K. Patton suggests that the experience of slavery with its concomitant view of black women as "natally dead" has impacted African American women writers' emphasis on elders and ancestors as they seek means to counteract notions of black women as somehow disconnected from the progeny of their wombs. This misperception is in part addressed via a rich kinship system, which includes the living and the dead. Patton notes an

uncanny connection between depictions of elder, ancestor, and child figures in these texts and Kongo cosmology. These references suggest that these works are examples of Africanisms or African retentions, which continue to impact African American culture.
